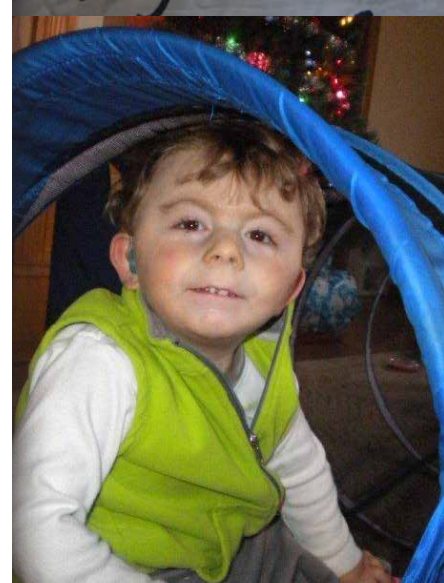


Community Action Agency of Boone & Winnebago Counties

City of Rockford Human Services Department

Annual Report to the Community 2013



Mission Statement

We are the Community Action Agency for Boone and Winnebago Counties, engaging all citizens in building stronger communities

Executive Director Message

May 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the federal “War on Poverty”. We take this occasion as workers laboring in the fields of that “war” to pause and reflect on what has been accomplished and what remains yet undone - not by any one organization or system, but by our community and nation collectively.

On May 22, 1964, the occasion of the signing of the bill that created the Office of Economic Opportunity, President Johnson expressed a bold vision: “The Great Society rests on



abundance and liberty for all. It demands an end to poverty and racial injustice to which we are totally committed in our time. But that is just the beginning.”

May such a vision continue to guide the transformation required to achieve it.

George Davis
Executive Director

CAA Board Chair Message

The Community Action Agency for Boone and Winnebago Counties has successfully made it through a challenging year. Challenges gives us an opportunity to look at what we are doing well, so that we can continue doing it and the chance to improve in areas that we may have not otherwise given adequate attention to. The challenges we encountered last year have been turned into opportunities to create a stronger agency and a stronger CAA Board.

The resiliency of the agency, specifically the staff of Community Services and Head Start exemplifies the passion and compassion for helping families in an effort to build a stronger community. However, this is not a task that can be conquered

without hard work, dedication and strong community partnerships.

I will continue to work with the CAA Board, staff and community partners on the emphasis of bridging any gaps that prevents the most effective service from being delivered.

I believe we can all agree that it’s timely to work smarter and not harder, if we want to have the greatest impact in our community.

Crystal Walker
Board Chair

CAA Board Members

Alderman Frank Beach
Victory Bell
Mayor Michael Chamberlain
Ron Clewer
Jennifer Garcia
Cristina Gloria

Fred Hoople
Martha Moore
Bill Pysson
Alderman Ann Thompson Kelly
Crystal Walker
Maurice West

Family of Distinction

The Community Action Agency (CAA) of Boone and Winnebago Counties nominated the Leah Shackleford Family for the Family of Distinction Award in recognition of her many accomplishments.

Ms. Shackleford first became involved with the CAA in 2013 through enrollment in the Early Head Start program after hearing about the program at the “Week of the Young Child” event. At that time, Leah was participating in the Women’s Life Recovery Program at the Rockford Rescue Mission, where she lived. Two of her children were in DCFS care with their maternal grandmother and her oldest son lived with his paternal grandmother.

Leah and her family were referred to the CAA Housing Advocacy Services to assist in locating housing and provide case management. This was the final step needed for Leah to regain custody of her children. Early Head Start (EHS) assisted in accessing several community resources as well as provided health and nutritional support for the family. EHS assisted the family with obtaining clothing, food, car seats, and toys for the children, and were able to provide transportation to Leah’s prenatal appointments.

In October 2013, Leah signed up to participate in our CAA Family and Community Development Program. The course provides structure, case management and a positive

support system. Through working with a case manager, Leah was able to obtain permanent housing and set several attainable goals including obtaining employment, enrolling the children in child care, starting college, and continuing her sobriety. Working with the

CAA has given Leah the confidence to support and nurture her children’s growth and development, as well as provide her with support on her own personal journey. Ms. Shackleford is making positive choices towards the goal of improving life for herself and her children. Leah has successfully completed counseling, an anger management course, obtained a driver’s license, completed her G.E.D., and regained custody of her children. Leah currently attends Total Faith Community where she is an active member of the church, helping in the food pantry. Leah volunteers her time

at the Rockford Rescue Mission handing out toiletries and performing other tasks. She is an “Accountability Sister”, which is a support team for individuals completing the Women’s Life Recovery Program. She has a very positive outlook on life.

Leah received this award because of the major obstacles she has overcome, and the strength she demonstrated to give her children (Mason, Madison, Makenzie, Micah) a better quality of life including greater economic self-sufficiency and a healthy lifestyle.



Services Provided...

The City of Rockford Human Services Department, a Community Action Agency serving Boone and Winnebago Counties, is comprised of the Community Services Division and the Head Start/Early Head Start Division. The collaborative work of the agency’s staff were able to assist the Shackleford family with the following:

- ◆ Early Head Start
- ◆ Housing Support Program
- ◆ Community Linkages
- ◆ Family & Community Development Program

Through Early Head Start, Leah was able to gain knowledge about child development and beneficial learning activities to engage in with her children, which Leah states led her to become more confident in parenting.

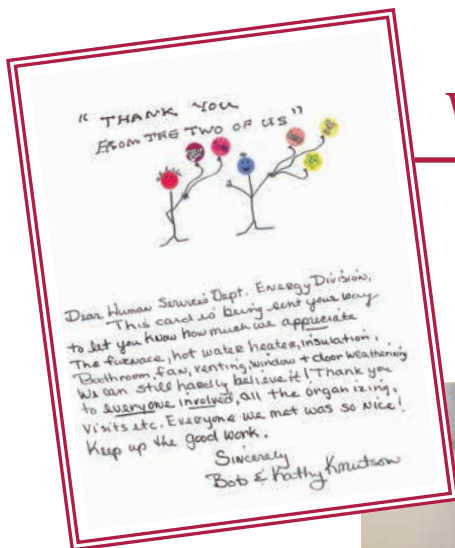
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

- ◆ 9,523 people were served in 2013 with programs including Housing Assistance, Life Skills, Financial Literacy, Neighborhood Network, and Elderly Advocacy
- ◆ 3 individuals were successfully employed through the Small Business Loan Program
- ◆ 184 people received emergency financial assistance for a crisis beyond their control
- ◆ 482 individuals volunteered in the Community Garden Program, and 5,429 pounds of food was donated
- ◆ 78 residents received SWEEP (Sharing Work for Excellence Everywhere Program) services which provides exterior clean-up and repair for elderly and disabled homeowners
- ◆ 5 youth received employment training through SWEEP



Energy Assistance

- ◆ 8,688 individuals in Boone and Winnebago Counties were served during the last program year with LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) and PIPP (Percentage of Income Payment Plan). PIPP assists households with a budget plan to lower utility costs.
- ◆ 4,908 of those individuals were senior and disabled citizens



Weatherization

Weatherization provides air sealing, and heating and ventilation services in order to make homes more energy efficient and reduce utility costs. In 2013, 191 homes were weatherized and 156 individuals received energy conservation services. 37 households received emergency furnace services providing repairs or replacement.



Community Health & Prevention

Summer Food Service Program provides nutritious meals to children during the summer months when school is not in session. Participating sites, located in both Winnebago and Boone Counties, are non-profit organizations and local recreation centers either in close proximity to a school where over 50% of children receive free/reduced lunch, or the sites serve a group of children where most of them are low income families. Over 27,000 lunches were served to children at 32 sites in 2013.



BASSET (Beverage Alcohol Sellers/ Servers Education & Training) program is the State of Illinois' seller/server training program. The BASSET Program is designed to encourage sellers/servers of alcoholic beverages to serve responsibly and adhere to the law. BASSET trained 29 individuals within Winnebago County in 2013.

Affordable Care Act provided enrollment assistance to over 300 citizens. "Too Good for Drugs" curriculum is taught to over 300 4th & 5th grade students in area schools.

Head Start/Early Head Start

Early Childhood Education - Teachers serve as educators and partners with families. They focus on a child's individual development, and ongoing child assessments are shared with parents to review progress and set goals. A variety of experiences and materials promote children's development in key areas.

Head Start *(Three to five years of age)*

Funded Enrollment: 591

Children Served: 664

Early Head Start *(Birth to three years old, and pregnant women)*

Funded Enrollment: 92

Children Served: 153

Pregnant Women Served: 11

Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting

(Pregnant women and children ages birth to three years old)

Children Served: 24

Pregnant Women Served: 3



Head Start/Early Head Start Health Services



- ◆ 100% of enrolled children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute medical care
- ◆ 98% of Head Start children and 90% of Early Head Start Children were determined by a health professional to be up-to-date on all immunizations appropriate for their age
- ◆ 99% of Head Start children and 73% of Early Head Start children had an ongoing source of continuous and accessible, routine, preventive and acute dental care
- ◆ 97% of Head Start children completed a professional dental exam during the operating period or within the last 12 months

Head Start/Early Head Start Parent Involvement

Parent education and training is provided at the site level and through community resources. Topics include family literacy, health, child development and self-sufficiency. 31 parent education events were held during the program year and 338 parents participated.

Head Start Parents:

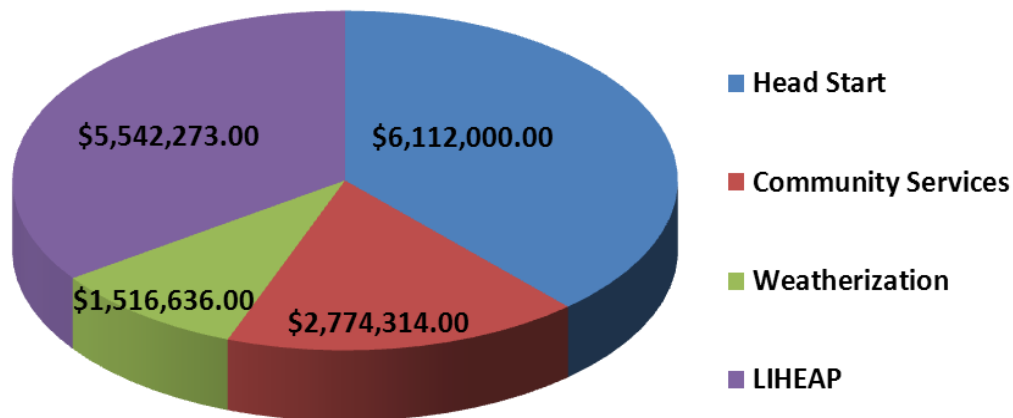
- ◆ Participate in their child's education and development
- ◆ Make decisions and offer suggestions that will contribute to program quality
- ◆ Volunteer in the classroom and on field trips
- ◆ Develop their skills as their child's first and most important teacher and advocate



Family Fun Nights are held regularly at the site level. Family-centered events are fun and informative. All members of the family are welcome to participate. 17 Family Fun Nights were held in 2012/2013 with 2,337 children and family members participating in the events.

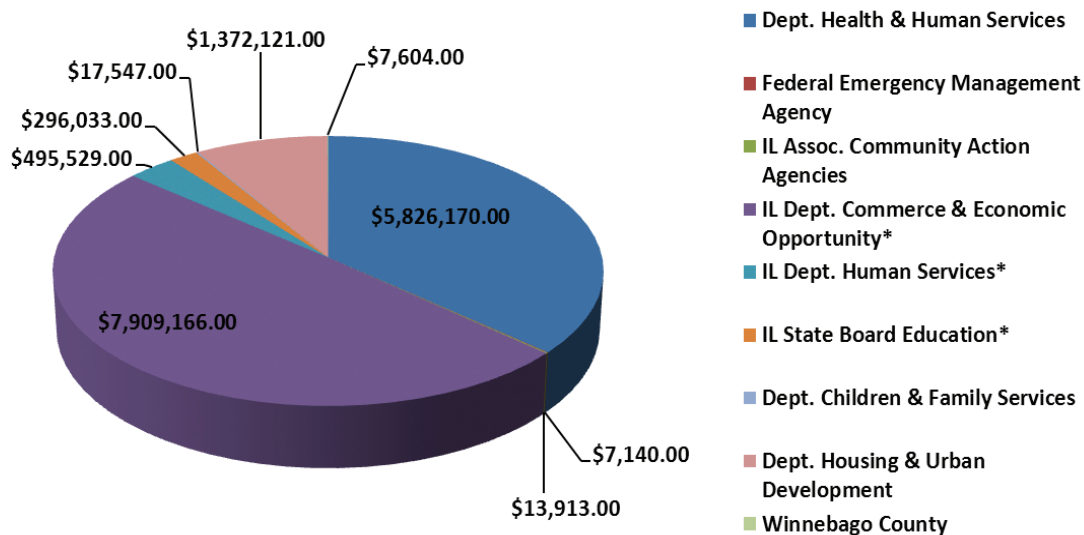
Community Action Agency of Boone & Winnebago Counties

Uses of Funds for Calendar Year 2013



Community Action Agency of Boone & Winnebago Counties

Sources of Funds for Calendar Year 2013



* Includes federal pass through funds



612 North Church Street
Rockford, IL 61103

Contact the office at:
Administration - 815/987-5782
Community Services - 815/987-5711
Head Start/Early Head Start - 815/987-5480
TTY - 815/987-5718

Or visit our web link:
<http://www.rockfordil.gov/human-services.aspx>

The City of Rockford Human Services Department is the designated Community Action Agency for Winnebago and Boone Counties. Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are multi-faceted human service delivery systems capable of locally administering short term and long term human services programs. CAAs work to engage elected and appointed public officials and agencies, private sector representatives and organizations, and low income residents in collaborative efforts to address the causes and conditions of poverty.

Services we provide...

- ◆ Community Health & Prevention: Drug prevention and education efforts through the “Too Good For Drugs” school curriculum and Rockford Alcohol Free Teens (RAFT) Coalition, Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education Training (BASSET), Summer Food Service Program, Affordable Care Act counseling
- ◆ Housing Assistance & Support: Homeless Prevention assistance, administration of the HUD Continuum of Care grants addressing homelessness, DCFS Housing Advocacy
- ◆ Community Services Block Grant: Community Gardens, Scholarships, Self-Sufficiency Case Management (FCD Program), Neighborhood Engagement, Business Loans, Boone Youth Tutoring & Leadership
- ◆ Energy Assistance Programs: Utility assistance through LIHEAP/PIPP, Weatherization and ComEd Hardship, Client Education, Home Energy Evaluation
- ◆ Child development and education, family social services, health and nutrition, special needs services, parent/family education :

Head Start: Pre-school children ages three to five years old

Early Head Start: Pregnant women and children ages birth to three years old

MIECHVP (Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Program): Pregnant women and children ages birth to three years old home visiting program